

Fremont Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday May 13, 2009  
Approved July 22, 2009

Attendance: Janice O'Brien, Kenn Jones, Jack Karcz, Tina Sturdivant, Brett Hunter Selectman, Jack Downing - Zoning Board, Jean Ragonese.

Meeting began at 7:06 PM

**David West from Rockingham Planning Commission**

Mr. West met with the committee for Phase 2 of the CTAP Open Space Plan. He brought in 5 maps for the committee members to review of combined data from the meeting on April 7, 2009. All five maps were reviewed and briefly discussed. Two maps that were reviewed at length were the Gravity Model map and the Co-occurrence Layers map.

The Gravity Model map showed existing conservation lands and existing water bodies. Mr. West felt that this particular map was not very useful for determining a greenway through Town.

The Fremont Open Space Plan Individual Co-occurrence Layers map showed the fourteen areas of importance selected last meeting. The fourteen data layers were Important Forest Soils, Appalachian Oak/Pine Forest, Hemlock Hardwood/Pine Forest, Land Covered Forest (2005), Coastal Conservation Plan Focus Areas, Unfragmented Lands greater than 100 Acres, Unfragmented Lands greater than 50 Acres, Unfragmented Lands greater than 500 Acres, Wildlife Action Plan Prime Habitats, Important Agricultural Soils, Special Flood Hazard Zone, Aquifers, Prime Wetlands, Wetlands/Streams with Buffers. Areas of the greatest importance were in the boldest colors. Mr. West recommended using this map to identify a preliminary greenway through the Town and areas to target for conservation.

None of the maps brought in contain property lines so larger areas can be looked at and identified without boundaries.

Mr West used the co-occurrence map with a blank acetate overlay to draw a preliminary greenway through the Town. The overlay was then put over a Town map (no property lines) and there was a discussion about areas that should not be included in the greenway because of the current use of the property, zoning or other factors that would eliminate the area from the greenway.

Mr. West said that he was going to digitize the preliminary greenway that was drawn and eliminate a few spots that were identified tonight. This new digitized map will be brought to the next meeting. That new map will be looked using property lines to then see how the greenway fits. For the next meeting committee members will discuss and make recommendations on reducing the size of the projected greenway to only include areas that are undeveloped and/or that are able to be connected.

There was a discussion of how this open space plan could be incorporated into the site plan review process and/or utilizing a tiered approach to the different zoning areas in Town, if it were adopted by

the Town. The goal of the Open Space Plan is to try to preserve 25% of the Town for open space/greenway.

Mr. Karcz asked what the highest ranking co-occurrence layers were. He asked if Mr. West could bring in a map containing these four layers to see what it would look like.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 2, 2009 at 7:00 on the main floor of Town Hall.

Mrs. O'Brien then made a motion to accept the minutes from April 7, 2009. Motion seconded by Mr. Jones.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Karcz and seconded by Mr Jones.

The meeting ended at 8.15 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Tina Sturdivant